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Message Text

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64
ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9134

UNCLAS PARIS 11707

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: XF, FR
SUBJECT: JOBERT ON THE MIDDLE EAST

1. IN INTERVIEW CARRIED IN MAY 14 ISSUE OF NEW PARIS NEWSPAPER "LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS", FONMIN JOBERT, WHO RECENTLY ANNOUNCED HIS SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GISCARD D'ESTAING, HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST.

2. "TO REESTABLISH PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST...'IT'S A LONG WAYC (ORIGINAL PHRASE IN ENGLISH). SINCE THE PROBLEM IS AT PRESENT EXPRESSED IN ENGLISH, I SAY 'IT'S A LONG WAY', AND, IN FACT, IT'S A HARD ROAD. FOR THE MOMENT, THERE ARE TWO PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS AND I WOULD SAY ONE IS REDUCED TO (EMPLOYING) DAY-TO-DAY EXPEDIENTS.

3. "MOREOVER, ONE CAN ASK IF THE PRACTICE OF DAY-TO-DAY EXPEDIENTS IS NOT THE RIGHT TACTIC. IF THERE WERE NOW THE POSSIBILITY OF CONCEIVING AND EVEN OF APPLYING A GLOBAL SETTLEMENT, I THINK - AND I AM SPEAKING OF TODAY - THAT THAT WHICH WOULD BE VERY SATISFACTORY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF PRINCIPLES AND REASON WOULD NOT NECES-SARILY BE THE IDEAL SOLUTION FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF FACTS DURING THE NEXT MONTHS AND WOULD EVEN HARBOR THE FUNDAMENTAL DANGER THAT THE GLOBAL SETTLEMENT WOULD NOT
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BE APPLIED; SAID OTHERWISE, THAT HAVING BELIEVED HIMSELF

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TO BE ADVANCING VERY QUICKLY, ONE WOULD RETREAT VERY FAR.

4. "THUS WHAT OTHERS HAVE CALLED THE 'SLICE OF SA SAUSAGE' IS PERHAPS IN FACT A WAY OF 'NIBBLING' AT THE PROBLEMS, BUT THAT IS BETTER THAN IMMEDIATELY SETTING UP THE BANQUET TABLE. IF ONE SETS UP THE BANQUET TABLE, THAT MEANS THAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON BASIC MATTERS AND AT THAT MOMENT, IT IS NECESSARY THAT EVERYONE KNOW THAT BASIC MATTERS ARE NOT TREATED BY SEPARATING FROM THE BANQUET - OR IN ANY CASE FROM THE MEETING - 250 MILLION INHABITANTS* I AM SPEAKING OF EUROPE. EVERY-ONE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT (REALITY) AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT EUROPE HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE GATEWAY TO THE NEAR EAST. HENCE THE SYMPATHY WITH WHICH WE ARE FOLLOWING THE CURRENT 'NIBBLING' WITHOUT PARTICIPATING IN IT. IF ONE WISHES TO HAVE A MEAL, LET'S SAY A FRENCH MEAL, BETTER PUT TOGETHER, WELL THEN EUROPE MUST BE THERE.

5. "FRENCH POLICY IN THE NEAR EAST BEING CLEARLY DEFINED, THERE IS NO REASON THAT THE BEST RELATIONS NOT EXIST BETWEEN FRANCE AND ISRAEL. DURING ALL THE TRIPS I HAVE MADE TO THE NEAR EAST, IN ALL THE ARAB COUNTRIES, I HAVE INDICATED THAT WE ENVISAGE HENCEFORTH PLACING OUR RELA-TIONS WITH ISRAEL UNDER MUCH MORE NORMAL CONDITIONS. I WOULD ALSO ADD THAT AFTER THE OCTOBER CONFLICT THERE WAS AN EVOLUTION OF MIND IN ISRAEL THAT IS PERCEPTIBLE TO ALL. THIS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT PRECISELY BE-CAUSE IT CAN FACILITATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUITABLE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND THAT (SHOULD TAKE PLACE) VERY SOON AFTER THE FORMATION OF THE NEXT GOVERNMENT".
IRWIN

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